

Example Nomination Submission for Mayor's Young Leader Awards

Professional Success Story: What projects or initiatives has this individual led to contribute to the success of their organization and the community. Please limit to 250 words: *

Julie would not describe herself as a business owner, rather she utilizes her preschool as a space to engage parents, offer a place for residents to gather, and find ways to further invest in the surrounding community. Julie opened Elevate Community Preschool in 2015, aiming to provide high quality preschool and wrap-around family services for low to moderate income families. Additionally, rooms allow for cultural expression and a public space for community to access other services or host events. She believes that the success of the Elevate Community Preschool can inspire others to identify creative ways that their businesses can support investment in the local community and provide needed services for residents.

Due to the success of Elevate Community Preschool, Julie has been approached to further expand her business model by opening other locations and partnering with additional local non-profits to expand impact. Each youth participant enters elementary school meeting kindergarten grade level educational requirements and the preschool distributed over 500 pounds of food to families in 2021. Additionally, families can access services such as WIC enrollment and workforce development programs at the site. The ability of the preschool to serve as a community hub and resource center allows for families to access multiple service providers in once space, while also providing a sense of community through block party events and movie nights.

Volunteer/Community Involvement: How has this individual contributed to the city through volunteerism. please limit to 250 words: *

Julie's active involvement in a variety of local and statewide organizations includes serving on the local Parks Board and as a member of the Colorado Health Department's equity committee. In her role as the past Parks Board Chair, Julie provided a unique perspective of how to engage residents and advance built environment initiatives. On average, she gave 20 hours a month volunteering with the Parks Board by attending master plan meetings, ribbon cuttings, ground breakings, and any other events hosted by the department. Her work helped the Parks Department build relationships with community members and assisted with strategic investment development, catalyzing an additional \$250,000 in outside investment in local parks. Further, as a member of the Colorado Health Department's equity committee, Julie helped to identify priority metrics for health equity and served as the liaison to the strategic plan, which identified collaborative opportunities with organizations to advance access to health services.

Community Affiliations *

In addition to her board and committee leadership, Julie also serves as an assistant coach for her son's soccer team.